

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing an inbound transaction document sent by a trading partner to a user in an electronic commerce system, the method comprising the steps of: ~~[[-]]~~
 - receiving the inbound document at an interface for communication with trading partners;
 - routing the inbound document to a mailbox of the user;
 - automatically determining a set of candidate reply transaction documents associated with the inbound document and the particular trading partner that sent the inbound document;
 - displaying a link to each candidate reply transaction document of said set adjacent to a header of the inbound document in a screen of a mailbox application for the user;
 - receiving a user selection of a reply transaction document from said candidate set;
 - parsing the inbound document to determine transaction data relevant to the selected reply document;
 - automatically populating the selected reply document with said transaction data;
 - generating a user edit screen displaying the automatically-populated selected transaction reply document, receiving a user input of additional transaction data, and writing said additional data to the reply document; and
 - transmitting the reply document.
2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system determines the set of candidate reply transaction documents by performing a look-up to a database indexed with the trading partners that are the inbound document ~~sender and addressee~~ senders and the inbound document ~~type~~ types.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system determines the set of candidate reply transaction documents by operation of a translation engine:

checking the inbound documents for compliance with a standard model, and
sending a negative functional acknowledgement to the trading partner or rejecting the inbound document if the compliance check is negative.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inbound document is parsed by a translation engine of the system translating the inbound document into a pre-populated selected reply document.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the translation engine writes the pre-populated selected reply document to a set of data structures in memory, and a mail engine of the system creates a pre-populated HTML reply document for rendering within a browser.

6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additional data is inputted to the system with use of a tool for appending data to fields.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additional data is inputted to the system with use of a tool for replacing automatically populated data.

8. (Currently Amended) An electronic commerce system for processing an inbound transaction document sent by a trading partner to a user, the system comprising means for performing a method as claimed in claim 1;
means for receiving the inbound document at an interface for communication with trading partners and routing the inbound document to a mailbox of the user;
means for automatically determining a set of candidate reply transaction documents associated with the inbound document and the particular trading partner that sent the inbound document;

means for displaying a link to each candidate reply transaction document of said set adjacent to a header of the inbound document in a screen of a mailbox application for the user;

means for receiving a user selection of a reply transaction document from said candidate set;

means for parsing the inbound document to determine transaction data relevant to the selected reply document;

means for automatically populating the selected reply document with said transaction data;

means for generating a user edit screen displaying the automatically-populated selected transaction reply document, receiving a user input of additional transaction data, and writing said additional data to the reply document; and

means for transmitting the reply document.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising ~~software computer readable code for performing the steps of claim 1 that~~ when executing on a digital computer, processes an inbound document sent by a trading partner, the computer readable code comprising.

code for receiving the inbound document at an interface for communication with trading partners and routing the inbound document to a mailbox of the user;

code for automatically determining a set of candidate reply transaction documents associated with the inbound document and the particular trading partner that sent the inbound document;

code for displaying a link to each candidate reply transaction document of said set adjacent to a header of the inbound document in a screen of a mailbox application for the user;

code for receiving a user selection of a reply transaction document from said candidate set;

code for parsing the inbound document to determine transaction data relevant to the selected reply document;

code for automatically populating the selected reply document with said transaction data;

code for generating a user edit screen displaying the automatically-populated selected transaction reply document, receiving a user input of additional transaction data, and writing said additional data to the reply document; and

code for transmitting the reply document.